



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

Collaborative Support for the Bipartisan Policy Center Oversight Framework for Patient Safety and Health IT

Health information technology (IT) plays a critically important role in improving the quality, safety, and cost-effectiveness of care, as well as the patient's experience of care. Using health IT to improve safety and continuously improving the safety of health IT requires national focus and public and private sector collaboration and leadership.

Through a collaborative effort, the Bipartisan Policy Center has engaged a wide range of experts and stakeholders across every sector of health care, including those representing clinicians, consumers, health plans, hospitals, patient safety organizations, academic and research institutions, and technology companies, to develop a set of principles and recommendations for an oversight framework for assuring patient safety in health IT.

We collectively agree that the following principles should guide the federal government's development of an oversight framework for patient safety and health IT.

1. Any oversight framework for safety should recognize and support the important role that health IT plays in improving the quality, safety, and cost-effectiveness of care, as well as the patient's experience of care.
2. Assuring patient safety, along with enabling positive patient outcomes, is a shared responsibility that must involve the entire health care system.
3. Any framework for patient safety in health IT should be risk-based, flexible, and not stifle innovation.
4. Existing safety and quality-related processes, systems, and standards should be leveraged for patient safety in health IT.
5. Reporting of patient safety events related to health IT is essential; a non-punitive environment should be established to encourage reporting, learning, and improvement.

Clinical software should be subject to a new oversight framework--rather than traditional regulatory approaches applied to medical devices--that includes four key components:

1. Agreement on and adherence to recognized standards and guidelines for assuring patient safety in the development, implementation, and use of health IT.
2. Support for the implementation of standards and guidelines as well as development and dissemination of best practices through education, training, and technical assistance.

3. Developer, implementer, and user participation in patient safety activities, including reporting, analysis, and response, leveraging patient safety organizations.
4. Creation of a learning environment through the aggregation and analysis of data to identify and monitor trends, mitigate future risk, and facilitate learning and improvement.

Alliance for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety

Allscripts

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Cancer Society

American College of Cardiology

American College of Emergency Physicians

American College of Physician Executives

American Medical Group Association

American Medical Informatics Association

American Osteopathic Association

Association of Clinicians for the Underserved

Association of Medical Directors of Information Systems

athenahealth

CHIME

Dell Inc.

ECRI Institute

GE Healthcare

Health Fidelity

Healthcare Leadership Council

Health Level Seven

McKesson Corporation

Medical Group Management Association

National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems

National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship

National Rural Health Association

NewYork Presbyterian Hospitals

NextGen HealthCare

Oracle Corporation

Sharp HealthCare System

Siemens Healthcare

UnitedHealth Group